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Labor Market Conditions Weaken in October

Employment numbers deteriorate, but unemployment rate holds relatively steady

Missouri labor market conditions deteriorated in the wake of September 11 events, with employment dropping off sharply but unemployment increasing only a little, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Employment data collected for October indicates that Missouri's unemployment rate remained steady at 4.0, however, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased three-tenths of a point to 4.5 percent. By comparison, the national adjusted rate shot up half a point to 5.4 percent.

"Our employment picture stabilized somewhat in September after having been on the decline since the beginning of the year. But the tragic events of September 11 are reflected in our numbers for October and show another decline," said Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

"We are optimistic that the diversity of Missouri's economy will help offset the impact of September 11 and the economic downturn that we are experiencing to minimize the loss of jobs in our state."

Non-farm payroll employment in Missouri fell off sharply in October, on a seasonally adjusted basis, after being relatively stable in the previous two months. Employment dropped by 17,000 jobs to 2,713,500, for a single-month decrease of 0.6 percent. National employment fell by 415,000 or 0.3 percent between September and October, but had also been dropping in the previous two months. Since July, Missouri and the U.S. have lost jobs at similar rates.

Manufacturing continued to lose jobs. The largest decrease, however, was a temporary layoff in the automobile industry in St. Louis (4,000 jobs), which has since ended. Food and kindred products manufacturing regained 1,000 jobs and returned to the July level of around 49,000. Construction employment lost 2,100 jobs at a time it should have been relatively stable as this industry is dependent on weather and other transitory conditions. Trade fell off sharply, with decreases in wholesale trade (particularly motor vehicles and parts) and food stores. Employment at eating and drinking places dropped seasonally.

The service industries were the only sector to show strength. Business services continued the rebound started in September, and personal services edged up. Educational services increased seasonally.

Over the past year, Missouri payrolls have lost more than 47,000 jobs, or about 1.7 percent. Manufacturing and business services together have lost almost 43,000 jobs. Trade has lost 12,000 jobs, concentrated in wholesale trade and retail food stores. Communications employment is down by 4,300 jobs and air transportation by 1,700, even though most post-September layoffs had not yet occurred by the October reference week. Most service industries other than business services have shown some growth over the year, as has Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate. Construction has held its own.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (OCTOBER 2001), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2001), AND YEAR AGO (OCTOBER 2000)

	OCT 2001	SEP 2001	AUG 2001	OCT 2000		OCT 2001	SEP 2001	AUG 2001	OCT 2000
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.0	4.7	4.9	3.6	Atchison	2.0	2.6	3.0	1.7
MISSOURI	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.3	Audrain	4.1	3.9	4.4	3.1
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.5	4.3	4.5	3.5	Barton	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.3
Franklin	6.4	4.0	4.3	3.4	Bates	5.0	5.3	5.4	4.4
Jefferson	5.1	3.7	4.0	2.8	Benton	7.1	6.9	6.4	6.2
Lincoln	3.8	3.6	4.0	2.8	Caldwell	4.4	4.5	5.3	3.8
St. Charles	2.9	2.8	2.9	1.9	Carroll	3.6	4.1	5.3	3.1
St. Louis County	3.7	3.5	3.5	2.7	Cedar	3.1	4.2	5.1	2.8
Warren	4.3	3.7	3.9	2.9	Chariton	5.8	6.1	7.7	5.9
St. Louis City	7.2	7.7	7.9	6.8	Clark	5.9	6.3	5.4	4.5
KANSAS CITY MSA	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.3	Cooper	4.9	4.8	5.0	2.7
Cass	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.5	Crawford	6.2	5.3	5.2	5.8
Clay	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.0	Dade	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.0
Clinton	2.6	2.5	3.2	2.3	Dallas	5.7	6.1	7.1	6.9
Jackson	4.1	4.5	4.6	3.8	Daviess	3.6	4.1	4.1	2.6
Lafayette	3.3	3.7	4.1	3.0	DeKalb	3.1	3.2	3.5	2.2
Platte	2.3	2.4	2.4	1.8	Dent	6.6	7.7	8.0	6.5
Ray	3.0	3.4	4.3	3.0	Douglas	9.9	10.3	10.2	6.0
SPRINGFIELD MSA	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.4	Dunklin	5.5	6.1	7.1	4.8
Christian	2.6	2.8	3.4	2.0	Gasconade	5.9	4.3	4.3	3.0
Greene	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.4	Gentry	3.0	3.1	3.4	2.5
Webster	3.1	3.4	4.0	3.0	Grundy	4.0	2.9	3.5	3.6
JOPLIN MSA	4.0	4.5	4.6	3.7	Harrison	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.3
Jasper	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.3	Henry	4.4	4.5	4.6	3.2
Newton	5.0	6.1	6.4	4.5	Hickory	6.9	7.2	7.8	8.4
COLUMBIA MSA	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.1	Holt	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.7
Boone	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.1	Howard	4.4	4.4	5.7	3.2
ST. JOSEPH MSA	4.8	5.3	5.1	3.3	Iron	6.0	6.5	6.2	6.4
Andrew	3.7	3.9	4.3	2.5	Johnson	2.8	3.0	3.2	2.9
Buchanan	5.0	5.6	5.2	3.4	Knox	2.6	3.3	3.5	3.5
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.4	2.8	3.5	2.7	Laclede	4.8	5.1	5.7	3.9
Adair	2.5	2.8	3.3	2.5	Lewis	3.1	2.2	3.3	2.6
Schuyler	1.7	2.5	4.8	3.6	Linn	10.9	11.6	10.8	10.8
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.2	5.5	5.4	4.8	Livingston	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.3
Butler	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.4	McDonald	5.3	6.1	5.9	4.5
Carter	5.4	5.4	4.8	4.6	Macon	6.2	6.9	8.1	4.8
Ripley	7.2	6.6	5.9	6.5	Madison	7.3	7.1	6.8	6.1
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.6	Mercer	2.9	2.1	2.8	2.6
Camden	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.5	Monroe	5.2	5.9	6.7	5.0
Miller	4.4	3.9	4.0	3.7	Montgomery	5.2	4.6	5.7	3.6
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	4.4	4.7	5.0	3.7	Morgan	5.7	5.2	5.2	4.0
Bollinger	8.0	4.5	4.4	4.6	Nodaway	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.0
Cape Girardeau	3.2	3.7	3.8	2.7	Ozark	4.3	4.5	4.6	3.9
Mississippi	6.8	7.1	7.9	6.2	Pemiscot	7.5	8.3	8.9	7.2
New Madrid	5.3	6.6	7.2	4.4	Perry	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.2
Scott	4.6	5.2	5.4	4.1	Pettis	6.7	6.6	5.9	3.3
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.7	2.6	3.8	2.3	Pike	5.2	5.5	6.5	3.8
Callaway	2.8	3.1	3.6	2.2	Polk	3.5	3.9	4.5	3.1
Cole	2.2	2.4	3.5	1.9	Pulaski	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.0
Moniteau	3.0	3.5	4.0	2.6	Putnam	3.2	2.9	4.3	3.2
Osage	4.8	1.9	5.5	4.3	Randolph	3.9	4.3	6.6	3.6
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.1	Reynolds	7.6	8.4	8.6	8.6
Howell	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.0	St. Clair	3.8	3.7	5.1	3.4
Oregon	3.8	4.2	4.3	3.6	Ste. Genevieve	4.5	4.1	4.0	2.9
Shannon	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.3	Saline	5.7	6.6	7.8	2.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	3.9	4.1	4.4	3.0	Scotland	3.0	3.1	3.5	1.8
Barry	3.5	3.9	4.0	3.0	Shelby	5.4	5.2	5.5	4.9
Lawrence	4.3	4.3	4.9	3.0	Stoddard	5.1	6.0	6.3	4.4
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.1	Stone	4.2	3.9	4.3	3.7
Marion	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.1	Sullivan	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.4
Ralls	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.0	Taney	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.4
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.1	3.2	3.7	2.5	Texas	6.3	5.6	6.0	5.5
Maries	3.9	3.7	5.9	2.9	Vernon	2.5	2.6	3.3	2.7
Phelps	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.4	Wayne	8.5	8.5	9.7	7.7
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.5	6.7	6.7	6.1	Worth	3.4	3.4	4.9	4.5
St. Francois	6.9	6.3	6.4	5.9	Wright	7.2	7.6	8.6	6.7

Washington 9.1 7.5 7.5 6.5

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MERIC, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU
OF LABOR STATISTICS